

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,317,871 (Andrews, et al.), and further rejected Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Also, the Examiner objected to Claim 18 as being dependent from a rejected base claim, and the Examiner indicated that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 10 are being amended to better define the subject matters of these claims. In addition, Claim 18 is being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of Claim 1. New Claim 19, which is dependent from Claim 1, is being added to describe preferred features of the invention.

In view of the amendment to Claim 18, it is believed that this claim is now in condition for allowance without further argument or discussion, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the objection to, and to allow, Claim 18.

It is also believed that the amendments made herein to Claim 6 fully address the rejection of Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 101. To elaborate, in rejecting these claims as directed to non-statutory subject matter, the Examiner, in the Office Action, argued that because there is no mention in the claim of hardware, the claim is considered to consist of merely software. The Examiner suggested changing the preamble of the claim to "A system which includes a processor and memory..."

Claim 6 is being amended as the Examiner suggested. In particular, the preamble of the claim is being amended to read "A system which includes a processor and memory...". Also, the preamble is being further revised to indicate that this processor is configured to

perform the functions positively set forth in the body of the claim, and, consistent with this latter change, the term “means” is being taken out of the body of the claim.

As presented herewith, Claim 6 now positively recites hardware to perform the functions set forth in the claim, and those set forth in Claims 7-9. Accordingly, Claims 6-9 are now directed to statutory subject matter, and the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 101

In addition to the foregoing, Claims 1-3 and 5-17 and 19 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is thus also asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3 and, 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow these claims and new Claim 19.

Generally, Claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19 patentably distinguish over the prior art because the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the way in which the templates and macros are used in combination, as described in independent Claims 1, 6 and 10.

In order to best understand this feature and its significance, it may be helpful to review briefly the present invention and the prior art.

The present invention relates to a method and system for processing text files in computer application. In accordance with this invention, a plurality of templates is created from samples of the text file. Each of the templates has literal fragments of the text file, and each of the templates includes substitution points that are filled in with application data. Also, one or more macro classes are provided to map data from the text file to the computer application. Pointers to the macro classes are embedded in the templates.

In operation, a template is used as an overlay to parse the text file into segments having data, or as a prototype to generate a segment of an output file. During this operation,

when a pointer to a macro is reached in the template, that pointer is used to invoke the macro class, and this macro class is used to map data from one of the segments of the text file to the computer application. The macro class then invokes another, second template to further process the text file; and this macro class is used to handle iterations, conditional logic and preparation of data for that this second template.

Andrews, et al, which was the only reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims, describes a procedure for translating source code from one high-level computer language to another. In this procedure, pieces of a source file that were generated in different translation sessions are combined, and textual consistency of each piece of generated code in the resultant code files is ensured. As described in Andrews, et al, fragment templates and partition templates are extracted from a source language text file, and a check is made for textual consistency of the target language code generated for each partition template. The described process then forms a target language code file from the partition templates, and combines pieces of the target language code file that were generated in different translation sessions.

There are a number of important features of the present invention that are not disclosed in, or rendered obvious by, Andrews, et al. In particular, the way in which the templates and macros are used together in the present invention is very different from the way in which the templates are used in Andrews, et al. For example, in the present invention, when one macro invokes a template, that macro is used to handle iterations, conditional logic and preparation of data for the invoked template. While the templates used in Andrews, et al. may have literal fragments of the text file, there is no teaching of using macros to handle iterations, conditional logic ore preparation of data for a template invoked by the macro.

Also, in the present invention, the templates are changed when the format of the text file changes. This may be used to ensure that the proper mapping is achieved even as the text file itself changes. This type of template change is not disclosed in, and is not obvious in view of, Andrews, et al.

Independent Claims 1, 6 and 10 are being amended to emphasize the above-discussed aspect of the instant invention. Specifically, each of these claims describe the feature that a macro class invokes another one of the templates to further process the text file; and each of claims 1, 6 and 10 is being amended to set forth positively the limitation that this macro is used to handle iterations, conditional logic and preparation of data for this another one of the templates.

The way in which the templates and macros work together is of utility because it eliminates the need, when the second template is invoked, to call upon some other application or utility to handle the iterations, conditional logic and preparation of data in this second template.

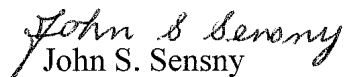
The other references of record have been reviewed, and they too, whether they are considered individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the templates described in Claims 1, 6 and 10.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 6 and 10 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, it cannot be said that any of Claims 1, 6 and 10 are anticipated by or are obvious in view of the prior art. Accordingly, these Claims 1, 6 and 10 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5, 14, 17 and 19 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 1. Further, Claims 7-9 and 15 are dependent from Claim 6 and are allowable therewith, and Claims 11-13 and 16 are

dependent from Claim 10 and are allowable therewith. The Examiner is hence requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow these claims and new Claim 19.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, a notice of which is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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